



# City of Milwaukee

## Meeting Minutes

### ANTI-GRAFFITI POLICY COMMITTEE

200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

**ALD. TONY ZIELINSKI, CHAIR**

**Ald. Robert Donovan, Vice-Chair**

**Ald. Terry Witkowski,**

**Scott Gunderson and G. Eddie Paez**

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**Monday, July 17, 2006**

**10:30 AM**

**City Hall, Room 301-B**

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#### **Meeting Convened: 9:34 A.M.**

*Members Present: Ald. Zielinski, Ald. Witkowski, Mr. Gunderson and Mr. Paez.*

*Members Excused: Ald. Donovan.*

#### **1) Approval of the minutes of the May 15, 2006 meeting**

*Motion by Mr. Gunderson to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2006 meeting.*

*Prevailed. 4-0.*

#### **2) Appearance by T.R.U.E. SKOOL, INC.**

*Representatives from T.R.U.E. SKOOL INC. were invited to attend the July 17th meeting of the Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee for the purpose of communication relative to the practices of T.R.U.E. SKOOL; in addition to discussion of the committee's concerns relative to the practice of graffiti art in the city of Milwaukee.*

#### **3) Department of Neighborhood Services Update**

*Sharon Blando, Department of Neighborhood Services discussed the following:*

*Ms. Blando referenced the graph handout submitted by the Department of Neighborhood Services. The graph reflected an increase in graffiti vandalism by 45% since 2004. Ms. Blando advised members that if graffiti vandalism continued to grow at the current rate, it would be the most graffiti reported since the start of the program.*

*Between the months of January 2006 through March 2006, there were reports of approximately 50% tagger graffiti and 50% gang graffiti.*

*From May 2006 to present, there were reports of approximately 85% tagger graffiti and approximately 15% gang graffiti.*

*In addition, tagger graffiti has escalated with three new taggers surfacing within the past 3-months.*

*Ms. Blando shared pictures of recent vandalism on Burleigh Street. She advised members that BID Districts have either already removed the graffiti or have plans to*

*remove the graffiti in the near future. The estimated cost to abate this damage was approximately \$1000.*

*In addition, the 30th Street Corridor has requested a contract and will receive funds for graffiti abatement. They will abate two of the buildings on Burleigh Street.*

*There have been reports of an increase in graffiti vandalism on the northside, downtown and the eastside from North Avenue to Locust Streets and from Holton to Humboldt. There have also been reports of graffiti vandalism to cars.*

*The reports of graffiti vandalism on the southside appear to be stable at this time. Some of the recent tags are more detailed and require a lot more time to create; Ms. Blando advised members and the viewing audience that graffiti in progress is considered a 911 telephone call by the Milwaukee Police Department.*

*The Department of Neighborhood Services distributes WE TIP dollar bill coupons; community members and property owners are encouraged to hand the coupons out. The coupons list the crime line anonymous number, individuals who call are not required to give their telephone number or address and can report any type of crime. Individuals who report crimes will be given a number when they call and will be rewarded if a conviction results from their tip.*

*In addition, judges continue to award the city compensation for restitution for claim forms submitted by the Department of Neighborhood Services. According to Ms. Blando this has been a successful effort.*

*Other reports include:*

*-Students from Bradley Tech did a paint out in June. Fifteen students reported with two instructors to demonstrate a self initiated project to abate graffiti. This effort will continue through September and has sparked the interest of other students who would like to participate in the project.*

*-The Spring Kick, Wisconsin Career Center 2006 in collaboration with The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Company and the Department of Public Works was successful.*

*-Mike Hodge, Program Director, Davis Boys and Girls Club spoke about Evan Worgelt, a Bradley Tech student who won an award for organizing a self directed effort along with Ald. Donovan's Office, The Community Partners Program and the Boys and Girls Club. The effort involved identifying addresses with graffiti problems in the southside community, with followup of wiping the graffiti and picking up trash throughout the community.*

*Mr. Hodge stated that he believed graffiti vandalism was down on the southside due to the involvement of various partner agencies working together to maintain clean neighborhoods.*

*Ms. Blando concluded her report by informing the committee that in the month of June, guides to responsible retailing were sent out to businesses who sell spray paint, etching cream and wide tip markers.*

*In addition, the signs (no spray paint to minors) normally sent out for posting in stores, were not sent out this year. Businesses were advised to contact the Department of Neighborhood Services if they need signs.*

## 4) Department of Public Works Update

*Jeffery Dellemann, The Department of Public Works reported the following:*

*The department has a two person graffiti crew that has been out on a daily basis, cleaning up graffiti on city property called in on the hotline, aldermanic service request or general referrals.*

*There has been a slight increase in tags on lightpoles, electrical control boxes and bridge railings. The hotspots include the lower eastside up to UWM around Menomonee Valley South down to Oklahoma Ave. On the far southside there has been an increase in street light taggings.*

*The department has been experimenting with new systems, one of which has a new chemical cleaner that has worked relatively well, in addition to a sponage scrubber similar to Mr. Clean that hasn't worked as well.*

*Mr. Dellemann also reported the overhaul of department equipment that had been inoperable.*

*Ald. Witkowski requested clarification about how pavement markings are removed and the length of time involved in removal?*

*Mr. Dellemann advised that pavement markings are blasted off with a soda blaster or water blasting. Markings are generally removed within 48-72 hours after being reported.*

## 5) Milwaukee Christian Center Update

*Eddie Paez, Milwaukee Christian Center reported the following:*

*Mr. Paez advised the committee that the Milwaukee Christian Center received an allocation for reprogramming funds that will be used for an additional residential crew this summer. The Christian Center also utilized the benefit of interns through the Mayor's program this summer.*

*The center's main focus has been on the removal of graffiti on the near southside and the near northside with respect to the removal of residential graffiti.*

*Additional crews will continue to focus on business associations, individual businesses and other commercial properties. The two crews in operation will continue to remove graffiti by soda blasting, paint spraying and pressure washing.*

*Mr. Paez informed the committee that the Christian Center will continue to work block captains. He advised the committee that some of the block captains like to do graffiti removal of their own alleys, with the reallocation of reprogramming funds, The Christian Center is able to provide minimal paint to assist in this type of removal.*

## 6) Municipal Court Update

*Ms. Kristine Hinrichs, Municipal Court reported the following:*

*Ms. Hinrichs reported a continued decrease in Municipal Court cases. There were 10 cases filed this year with 7 convictions.*

## 7) Milwaukee Police Department Update

*Captain Gary Meyer, Milwaukee Police Department-District 6 and Officer Todd Kaul, Intelligence Division appeared on behalf of the Milwaukee Police Department.*

*Captain Meyer reported two arrest on the northside in Police District 5, which has resulted in multiple clearances. In addition there is currently an ongoing investigaton in Police District 6 on the southside that may yield suspects which may also result in several clearances.*

*Officer Kaul reported a decrease in calls for graffiti vandalism in the Milwaukee Police Department since the last Anti-Graffiti meeting. He also reported the Milwaukee Police Department database up and running. The graffiti database is expected to be online for use by district stations by August 2006.*

*Mr. Gunderson asked whether the Police Department maintained data on the number of 911 calls they receive?*

*Officer Kaul advised that he did not have the data available, however he would research Mr. Gunderson's request and report his findings at the next meeting.*

## 8) Public Comments

*Mr. Maurice Williams, 30th Street Industrial Corridor.*

*Mr. Williams appeared at the meeting to introduce himself as a new member of the 30th Street Corridor. Mr. Williams is responsible for initiating the graffiti abatement program for the Industrtrial Corridor from Congress to Highland.*

*Mr. Williams has observed excessive graffiti vandalism around the Rail Corridor.*

*He is also working with Canadian Pacific with future plans to collabration with city entities on behalf of community contractors to address graffiti issues.*

## 9) Next meeting date:

*September 25, 2006, 10:30 a.m., Room 301-B.*

**Meeting Adjourned:10:56 A.M.**

*Diana Morgan  
Staff Assistant*